



# Minutes Nevada Homeland Security Commission Quarterly Meeting

## ATTENDANCE

<b>DATE</b>	14 December 2005
<b>TIME</b>	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
<b>LOCATION</b>	401 S Carson St – Carson City 555 W Washington – Las Vegas
<b>METHOD</b>	Teleconference between sites
<b>RECORDER</b>	Denise Parsons

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Staff &amp; Others in Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>
Dr. Dale Carrison, Chairman	<b>X</b>	Glade Myler, Attorney General's Office	<b>X</b>
Jerry Keller, Vice-Chairman	<b>X</b>	Frank Siracusa, Director, Division of Emergency Mgmt	<b>X</b>
Maureen Peckman	<b>X</b>	Kamala Carmazzi, Deputy Director, DEM	<b>X</b>
Robert Hadfield	<b>X</b>	Dr. Christopher Lake, Nevada Hospital Association	<b>X</b>
Ellen Knowlton	<b>X</b>	Dr. Bradford Lee, NV State Health Department	<b>X</b>
Gonzalo Cordova	<b>X</b>	Mark Blomstrom, Deputy Director, Dept. of Information Technology	<b>X</b>
Robert Fisher	<b>X</b>	James Sudderth, Nevada Vulnerability Assessment Team	<b>X</b>
Earl Greene	<b>X</b>	Walt Quering, Sergeant, LVMPD	<b>X</b>
Jim Spinello	<b>X</b>	Heidi Sakelarios, Health Program Manager, Nevada State Health Division	<b>X</b>
Rosemary Vassiliadis	<b>X</b>	Marge Gunn, LEPC, Lincoln County	<b>X</b>
Bill Welch	<b>X</b>	Kathleen Steinle, Grants & Training Preparedness Officer, DHS	<b>X</b>
Paul Wagner	<b>X</b>	Wendy Walsh, Citizen's Corp. Coordinator, Region IX	<b>X</b>
Dennis Balaam	<b>X</b>	Giles Vanderhoof, Homeland Security Administrator	<b>X</b>
William Young		Valerie Sumner, Homeland Security Administrators Office	<b>X</b>
Senator Dennis Nolan		Larry Casey, Homeland Security Commission Staff	<b>X</b>
Assemblyman John Ocegura		Denise Parsons, Homeland Security Commission Staff	<b>X</b>

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

At 9:00 am Chairman Carrison called the meeting to order. Larry Casey called the roll. 13 members were present, 3 were absent, and so a quorum was established.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Carrison made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2005 commission meeting. It was seconded. The minutes were approved.

## **3. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Carrison briefly mentioned the changes in the Grant application, and the finances regarding the statewide vulnerability assessment. He stated that given the school district's recent approval to fund a study to determine whether or not the district is too large, the vulnerability assessment is a bargain.

## **4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSION MEMBER**

Chairman Carrison welcomed the newest member of the Commission, Paul Wagner of the Reno Fire Department.

## **5. FINANCE COMMITTEE FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION**

Chairman Hadfield discussed increasing the amount of money needed by the Vulnerability Assessment team by 25K for additional travel. The finance committee recommended approving this increase.

## **6. OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS (ODP) GRANT GUIDELINES FOR 2006 ALLOCATED BY THE NEVADA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, TRIBAL NATIONS AND STATE GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

Frank Siracusa, Chief, Nevada Division of Emergency Management, discussed the new competitive process of the Grant guidelines and stated that there is a long list of requirements that will be used to develop the application and will make the determination. There are several hundred pages in the current application process.

Kamala Carmazzi, Deputy Chief, Nevada Division of Emergency Management, provided a detailed presentation of the new document, outlining the changes:

- The document was released on 12-2-05.
- Ties goals to plan to goals to projects with a budget for each project.
- Strong emphasis/mandate to integrate all homeland security program funding.
- Must include types of activities that coordinate and educate citizens.
- HSC Funding Office of Grants & Training requires an explanation if less than 10% is used for emergency responders.

Mark Blomstrom stated that they are on track but that this provision is set at a higher goal of standards and the language is vague. He also stated that com links are in place, and that now we need computers in place that can communicate with each other.

- Funds must be placed in an Interest Bearing Account.
- Critical Infra Protection Funds are closed
- Costs are now organization costs.
- UASI is not as flexible as in the past. DHS declared only.
- New cost breakouts for heightened alerts: 25% maximum with 10% of that for yellow alerts and 15% for orange alerts.
- An implementation plan must be certified before equipment is purchased.
- Funds can only be used for current performance period – future funding cannot be used to sustain position.
- Multi-year training and exercise plan is required (including UASI)
- Hiring of personnel is explicitly allowable – 15% of funding may be used for personnel
- Hiring of Public Safety personnel is prohibited – however, a lateral transfer is possible
- Will be based on risk & need. Risks will be asset based and geography based.
- Need will be based on the Investment Justification.
- Investment Justifications will be reviewed and scored through a peer review process.

Mr. Spinello asked if there was any reference to population and tourism?

Ms. Carmazzi stated that there was no reference made to either, and that all elements must come together.

Dr. Carrison mentioned that Nevada should be ahead of the game because of the Vulnerability Assessment.

Mr. Myler asked whether or not the scores would be revealed?

Ms. Carmazzi stated that the risk score would remain confidential.

- SHSP and LETPP 0.75% base – 100% competitive nationwide.
- MMRS would be divided evenly among the current 124 MMRS jurisdictions.
- The Application is due on March 2, 2006, and that the State will be negatively impacted if the application is late.
- 15 Investment Justifications per State + 15 Investment Justifications for UASI.
- Urban area investments must be included as part of the overall State application.
- There is a 60-day obligation period. SAA will submit a prioritization of investments based on final grant award amounts.
- OGO will conduct financial monitoring.
- Grantees must demonstrate the dual-use nature of any activities.

- All urban areas are requested to develop multi-year exercise plans.
- Upon close-out of FFY06 grants – 2-year period from the date of award.
- Would be restricted to 80%-20% split, and that 5% can be used for UASI.
- Base amount of allocation is 0.75% - needs to be folded into the investment justification.

Ms. Carmazzi further stated that the state wouldn't know which projects would be approved or denied, and the state would do it's best to get these issues resolved. They would be briefed on the Program Enhancement Plan tomorrow. She also stated that the Working Group would get together immediately following the holidays.

Mr. Myler stated his concern about the legality regarding the amount of money being funded and monitored and put in interest-bearing accounts. He also asked about Legal Preparedness?

Ms. Carmazzi answered that it would be integrated into the exercise plan.

Dr. Carrison stated that all dollars have to be reported to the commission.

Ms. Carmazzi stated that all funding sources will have to be identified under the new plan.

Mr. Keller asked if the structure was in place to bring everything together under the new structure?

Ms. Carmazzi stated that her meeting tomorrow would clarify things.

Mr. Keller asked who would be responsible for writing the grant?

Ms. Carmazzi stated that the actual grant would be prepared by DEM.

Mr. Keller stated that these funds are designed to protect and that the concept of dual use has been with us for a while. He asked if any regional areas have been identified?

Ms. Carmazzi stated that each state will have to identify their region borders.

Mr. Keller stated one area could be statistical recording areas – someone else's system might work better than crafting a new one. He stated that the elements are in line with what we've been doing.

Ms. Carmazzi stated that the regional concept is easier to achieve if you are back east, and one problem is getting the Feds to realize that we are different than the states back east.

Mr. Hadfield concurred with Mr. Keller and mentioned that we do have a mutual aid agreement with neighboring states. He stated the biggest issue we have right now is the 60-day deadline, and that our ability to respond will determine what we get. He then asked if the can use the Vulnerability Assessment to help put together the package?

Mr. Vanderhoof stated that all requirements must be fulfilled or we won't get funding – there is tremendous red tape.

Ms. Carmazzi concurred and stated that some processes could be overwhelming.

Mr. Siracusa added that yes, it will be cumbersome, but we should be willing to take the lead and make sure some investment projects are put together.

Mr. Fisher expressed concern that since tourism and transient populations weren't included, Nevada may not be competitive.

Dr. Carrison added that Nevada is ranked as one of the top 13 states in the Nation for a Bio-terrorism threat.

Two action items were presented:

1. All persons receiving funding need to report.
2. Is the commission willing to support the establishment of the working group?

Dr. Carrison responded that the working group has to work quickly and hold weekly meetings, etc.

Mr. Hadfield concurred.

Mr. Greene asked if individuals will be moved from the EOC? Should a hazard materials person be included? He stated that working groups need a clear set of rules to follow.

Mr. Siracusa stated that they would be getting clarification of those concerns tomorrow. He also stated that the work groups would get together after the holidays.

Ms. Carmazzi stated that funds shouldn't be available for the private sector.

Mr. Myler stated that he would be talking to experts about the legal decision regarding the work groups.

Dr. Carrison asked if there were other issues regarding this topic?

Mike Henderson, representative for Jim Gibbons, stated that regarding the question on tourism, Washington suggested it should be included in the risk assessment since populations swell at certain times of the year. He stated that he would be happy to get the appropriate people involved. He also stated that Mr. Vanderhoof and Ms. Hadd have applied to be in the peer groups.

Mr. Siracusa stated that the comprehensive state emergency management plan is only as good as organizations that support the plan.

**7. SB380 REQUIREMENT FOR THE STATE AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS TO SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION A REPORT ON REQUESTS FOR FUNDING APPLICATION.** Dr. Carrison stated that this item has already been addressed. He suggested a 10-minute break.

**8. PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TEAM** James Sudderth, Nevada Vulnerability Assessment Team, briefly discussed the status of the vulnerability assessment and methodology. He stated that the assessment team has been doing an all-hazard, threat-based terrorism assessment utilizing all-hazard worksheets.

Dr. Carrison asked if the assessment team has been going over the worksheets with the rural counties?

Mr. Sudderth stated that they had been traveling to the rural counties and assisting them in compiling the worksheets. He mentioned that the breaking down of the state into zones has been the most effective method for travel. He stated that there is a December 31, 2005 completion date for the vulnerability assessment. He recommended making City Watch into State Watch and making it one of the Investment Justification Projects.

## **9. CITY-WATCH PROGRAM PRESENTATION AND DEMONSTRATION**

Sergeant Walt Quering, LVMPD, provided a demonstration and brief history of City Watch:

- Setting up regional critical infrastructure.
- It utilizes risk management assessment software.
- It was purchased on 2004 UASI Funds
- It can be accessed from PDA and links to other databases
- Meets the needs of first responders
- It should be the cornerstone of an integrated homeland security system.
- Is very user friendly.
- Can enter open threats to an area – types & length of threat
- Projects casualties
- Breaks down critical assets
- Contains search databases, and hazmat information
- Summary reports

- Primary security objectives –projects for various threat levels.
- Can be site specific
- Has the ability to add images
- Can add security operations and plans
- Addresses exercises and training

Dr. Carrison stated that City Watch is a tremendous asset that can be utilized statewide. He stated that this would be a terrific opportunity to take the state vulnerability assessment and make it a living document.

Mr. Keller concurred and stated that metro has a grant for 250 sites and that it is free to those who want to use it.

Mr. Sudderth stated that the program has expandability.

Mr. Quering added that GIS can be added on to other programs.

Dr. Carrison stated that the commission needs to address funds.

Mr. Sudderth mentioned that all the information they've collected will be in a spreadsheet format and suggested the implementation of City Watch.

Mr. Greene added that our success is due to the integration between police and fire departments.

Dr. Carrison motioned to augment the travel budget for the VA team.

Mr. Hadfield seconded the motion.

Dr. Carrison stated the motion passed.

Mr. Hadfield motioned to utilize Citizen Watch to be used as a statewide program and recommended that money be allocated from the Vulnerability Assessment budget to do this.

Mr. Keller stated that additional licenses should be purchased from the vulnerability assessment budget funds.

Mr. Quering added that all 250 licenses are for S. Nevada use only and were purchased under UASI Grants.

Mr. Keller proposed a 2-part motion. He stated that StateWatch is an investment option.

Mr. Quering stated that initially it is very labor intensive and that having the vulnerability team inputting the initial data is a tremendous help.

Dr. Carrison stated that the commission will recommend inputting the statewide strategy to the governor.

Mr. Hadfield recommended amending the motion.

Ms. Peckman asked what the cost would be to include the Clark County School District?

Mr. Quering responded that they might be able to get a reduced rate due to the cookie-cutter design of the schools.

Mr. Hadfield asked if Nevada would be the first to do this statewide?

Mr. Quering answered that the software was originally purchased as a single-site version.

Mr. Blomstrom stated that it would be a common-based application and easy to use.

Dr. Carrison motioned to recommend City Watch to the governor. The motion passed.

#### **10. REVIEW OF THE 2005 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR**

Dr. Carrison asked if there were any questions regarding the 2005 Governor's report? There were none. Therefore, he motioned to finalize the report. The motion passed.

#### **11. CITIZENS CORP**

Wendy Walsh, Citizen's Corp. Coordinator, Region IX, gave a summary of Citizen's Corp's mission and responsibilities.

Mr. Fisher asked if it's difficult to get the public involved.

Ms. Walsh responded favorably.

#### **12. GOALS OF THE NEW RURAL COUNTY TASK FORCE**

Mr. Fisher gave a brief summary of the rural county task force formation.

Ms. Gunn stated that interoperability communication needs to be addressed in the rural counties.

Dr. Carrison asked Ms. Gunn if she would be willing to represent the small counties in the work groups?

She stated that she would.

#### **13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Carrison asked if there was any public comment.

Ms. Walsh briefly mentioned the Naval Post Graduate School Homeland Security Masters Degree Program, as well as the digital library.

Kathleen Steinle, a Grants & Training Preparedness Officer with DHS introduced herself.

Chief Greene mentioned that he will be retiring and introduced his replacement, Steve Smith.

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Carrison motioned for adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm.

Meeting notes completed by Denise Parsons, for questions call (702) 486-0798 or email [deniseparsons@state.nv.us](mailto:deniseparsons@state.nv.us)